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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IGA-02 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NEA-10 COME-00 AID-05 EB-08
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JRRATIGAN
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
T:SLEDOGAR
EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY
H:RPUGH
PM/SAS:SWINSHIP
EUR/REBARBOUR
S/S:MR. REDDY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON FY-78 SECURITY
ASSISTANCE TO GREECE AND TURKEY

REF: (A) STATE 89699, (B) STATE 89954, (C) STATE 90611

SUMMARY. COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND OTHER STATE/DOD OFFICIALS
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TESTIFIED AT LENGTH APRIL 21 BEFORE SFRC AND HIRC SUB-
COMMITTEES ON FY-78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE AND TUR-
KEY. QUESTIONING WAS INTENSE BEFORE BOTH COMMITTEES
FOCUSING ON (A) WHETHER LINKAGE EXISTED BETWEEN CYPRUS AND
TURKISH DCA AND FY-78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY, AND
(B) TURKISH F-4 PROBLEM. NIMETZ CONSISTENTLY AVOIDED DIS-
CUSSION OF "LINKAGE" SAYING ONLY THAT CYPRUS WAS ONE OF

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SEVERAL "RELEVANT FACTORS" ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONSIDER IN DECIDING WHEN TO URGE CONGRESS TO ENDORSE TURKISH DCA. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE BENSON, COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND GENERAL FISH (DOD/DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY) TESTIFIED FOR 2 HOURS 15 MINUTES APRIL 21 ON ADMINISTRATION FY-78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEFORE SFRC SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. PRESENT

WERE SENATORS CLARK (CHM.), BIDEN, SARBANES, CASE, CHURCH, JAVITS AND PERCY. SUBCOMMITTEE INVITED BENSON ET AL., TO RETURN IN WEEK OR SO (DATE NOT SPECIFIED) FOR FURTHER TESTIMONY.

2. ALTHOUGH SUBCOMMITTEE JURISDICTION IS WORLDWIDE, GREECE-TURKEY RECOMMENDATIONS ACCOUNTED FOR 25-30 PERCENT OF ALL QUESTIONS ASKED. NIMETZ CONFIRMED TO SARBANES THAT (A) LACK OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS WAS ONE OF SEVERAL RELEVANT FACTORS IN DECISION NOT TO SEEK IMMEDIATE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON TURKISH DCA; AND (B) ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL WAS CONSISTENT WITH PRESIDENT'S STRONG CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS ON NEED FOR JUST CYPRUS SOLUTION. ON F-4 QUESTION, SARBANES ASKED WHETHER PROBLEM COULDN'T BE RESOLVED WITHIN CONTEXT OF EXISTING LEGISLATION, WITHOUT SPECIAL EXCEPTION. NIMETZ/BENSON NOTED THAT ALTERNATIVES INCLUDED (A) APPLICATION TO F-4'S OF 55 MILLION DOLLARS BALANCE OF FY-77 FMS CREDIT AUTHORITY OR (B) CONVERSION TO COMMERCIAL PURCHASE. NIMETZ SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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DECISION WAS NOT OURS BUT GOT'S BUT THOUGHT GOT WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO PURSUE EITHER OPTION.

3. PERCY QUESTIONED WHY DEPARTMENT HAD NOT EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT TO GOT OVER LACK OF PROGRESS AT VIENNA. PROGRESS ON CYPRUS WAS HEART OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM. NIMETZ SAID, WHILE THERE HAD BEEN NO BREAKTHROUGHS AT VIENNA, THE MEETINGS HAD SOME POSITION ELEMENTS (TABLING OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, LENGTH OF TALKS). PERCY HOPED PRESIDENT WOULD PRESS FOR GREATER MOVEMENT ON CYPRUS DURING POSSIBLE LONDON MEETINGS WITH CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL.

4. NIMETZ TESTIFIED FOR 2 HOURS, 20 MINUTES, AFTERNOON APRIL 21 BEFORE HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE-MIDEAST ON FY-78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE-TURKEY. ATTENDING WERE REPS. HAMILTON (CHM.), ROSENTHAL, SOLARZ, FINDLEY, PETTIS AND BINGHAM, PLUS U.S. AND FOREIGN PRESS AND EMBOFFS FROM UK, FRG, AND GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS.

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NIMETZ STATEMENT SENT REF (A); CHANGES SENT REFS (B) AND (C).

5. LINKAGE OF DCA/SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY TO CYPRUS QUESTION WAS CENTRAL ISSUE OF QUESTIONING. ISSUE WAS APPROACHED FROM DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES BY REPS. ROSENTHAL, SOLARZ, HAMILTON AND FINDLEY. ROSENTHAL POINTED OUT FORD ADMINISTRATION HAD TWICE PROPOSED ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR APPROVAL TURKISH DCA WHICH WOULD HAVE DONE AWAY WITH RESTRICTIONS OF 620 (X). WILL PRESENT ADMINISTRATION ACT IN THE SAME WAY WHEN IT ASKS FOR DCA APPROVAL

BY CONGRESS? NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT CURRENTLY SEEKING APPROVAL OF DCA OR ELIMINATION OF 620(X), BUT PREFERRED FOR PRESENT TO MONITOR SITUATION CLOSELY. WE EXPECTED PROGRESS ON CYPRUS, PERHAPS AFTER TURKISH ELECTIONS, AND IN ANY CASE PROGRESS CONFIDENTIAL

ON CYPRUS WAS ONE OF SEVERAL RELEVANT FACTORS ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONSIDER IN JUDGING ITS FUTURE COURSE.

6. SOLARZ QUESTIONED UTILITY OF EMBARGO IN FACILITATING CYPRUS SOLUTION, AND ASKED WHETHER IN ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW EMBARGO WAS (A) USEFUL LEVERAGE, (B) OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS, OR (C) IRRELEVANT TO PROGRESS. NIMETZ ANSWERED "(D) NONE OF THE ABOVE", NOTING THAT HISTORY OFFERS DIFFERING LESSONS ON EFFECTIVENESS OF EMBARGOS. WHILE ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT SEEKING ELIMINATION OF EMBARGO, GOOD US-TURKISH RELATIONS WERE CLEARLY IMPORTANT IN OBTAINING FUTURE PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. HAMILTON ALSO QUESTIONED WISDOM OF EMBARGO AND ASKED IF CONGRESS SHOULD HOLD HEARINGS SOON ON TURKISH DCA. NIMETZ THOUGHT IT BEST TO DEFER HEARINGS UNTIL A BROADER CONSENSUS WAS REACHED. FINDLEY AND SOLARZ INQUIRED WHETHER US WASN'T SACRIFICING LEVERAGE FOR GREEK DCA BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY MAP, WITHOUT LINKAGE TO A GREEK AGREEMENT. NIMETZ REPLIED ADMINISTRATION BELIEVED PROPOSED LEVELS FOR GREECE WERE APPROPRIATE.

7. TURKISH F-4 PROBLEM ALSO RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. QUESTIONS CENTERED CHIEFLY ON MECHANICS OF TRANSACTION, AND ON WHY TURKS COULD NOT PURCHASE F-4'S COMMERCIALLY. NIMETZ AHD FISH POINTED OUT PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF SHIFTING TO COMMERCIAL PURCHASE, AND NOTED GOT'S PREFERENCE FOR FMS PROCEDURES. ROSENTHAL FOCUSED ON HIGH DOLLAR VALUE OF PROPOSED CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND QUESTIONED NIMETZ CLOSELY ON WHY TURKS WERE ALLOWED TO BEGIN PROGRAM IN L976 WHICH THEY KNEW THEY COULD NOT FINISH WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE RELIEF OF SOME KIND.

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8. RE CYPRUS, REP. HAMILTON REVIEWED TURKISH/TURKISH CYPRIOT OBSERVANCE OF 620(X) REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING COLONIZATION AND TROOP LEVELS. REP. BINGHAM QUESTIONED ADMINISTRATION VIEW THAT FURTHER AID TO CYPRUS WAS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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NECESSARY. (NIMETZ EMPHASIZED MUCH OF PAST ASSISTANCE WAS STILL IN PROCESS OF BEING MADE AVAILABLE. BINGHAM NOTED GOC HAS PUT FORWARD DIFFERENT STATISTICS RE HOUSING AND FOOD NEEDS WHICH INDICATED NEED FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE STILL EXISTED.
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